



January 9th, 2014

Dear Attorneys General of California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington,

On behalf of the nation's largest civil rights organization advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality, I write to you—the attorneys general of the 18 states where same-sex marriages are afforded state recognition—to urge your immediate action on behalf of the more than 1,300 same-sex couples who legally married in the state of Utah.

I ask you to declare your intent to recognize these unions, conferred between December 20th—when U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby ruled the state's amendment banning same-sex marriage unconstitutional—and January 6th—when the U.S. Supreme Court issued an injunction staying Shelby's decision.

There is no legal reason to question the validity of these more than 1,300 marriages. Each was legally performed by a clerk representing the State of Utah, in accordance with the state's statutes and constitution. Even the office of the governor of Utah—whose formal political position is one of opposition to marriage equality—urged state agencies to extend state marriage recognition to these couples during that 20 day period when same-sex marriages were being performed. Even though the governor's office has now made a political decision to cut off this recognition, it continues to insist that it does not question the validity of these unions.

Should any of these couples be residents of, travel through, or relocate to your state, there is simply no reason to treat their marriage differently from any other, and I urge you to issue an advisory opinion declaring that treating all legally-conferred marriages consistently as a matter of equal protection and basic justice is consistent with the public policy of your state.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments.

Sincerely yours,

Chad Griffin
President, Human Rights Campaign